

The Anatolian expansion

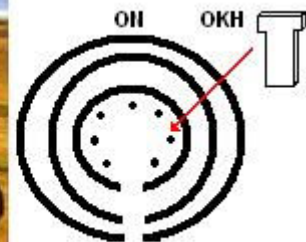
Doç. Dr. Haluk Berkmen

Anatolia (present Turkey) has been a center of civilization throughout the ages. Recently an important Neolithic site has been discovered at Göbeklitepe (see map below). This is the oldest site discovered so far in Anatolia. Until recent times Jerico in Palestine and Çatalhöyük in Turkey were thought to be the places where civilization flourished. But at Göbeklitepe, which has been dated to about 11,000 years BP, several circular and concentric walls within which T-shaped monolithic pillars that are up to 3 meters high have been unearthed.



Some important archeological sites in present Turkey

Below left we see the excavation going on at Göbeklitepe. The central drawing has been executed by the German archeologist Klaus Schmidt who is presently conducting the digs. We find a striking similarity between these cult temples and the **Onkh / Khno** sign found all over the world (see Chapter 6, **Universal Symbols**). The drawing is a top view of the cult temple. On some of the T-shaped pillars there are carvings of sacred animals in relief.



Another important antique region in the center of Turkey is known as Cappadocia, where many dwellings have been carved into the soft natural formations (picture below left). The

shelters have not only been carved above the earth but also several underground cities, made out of several stages and many rooms, have been discovered in the region. One important underground city is found at Derinkuyu, whose vertical-cut drawing can be seen at the center image below. On the right we see the **On-Okh** symbols painted on the walls of the rock-cut shelters of Cappadocia. They are assumed to be drawn by the early Christian settlers. But in fact they were there long before the arrival of the Christians. We now can see the correlation and similarity of these wall-paintings to the symbols of the sun worshippers.

When Christians arrived at Cappadocia the dwellings were not empty. They were occupied by people worshiping the sun-god. The early Christians painted frescoes and icons on the walls of rock-cut rooms which became to be used as primitive churches. This approach to religion did not suit the sun worshippers and a clash among these opposing beliefs influenced the iconoclast period, which was a period where the icons were erased from the walls of the early churches. In spite of the iconoclast period many frescoes still remain to be seen on the walls of Cappadocia.



The similarity between the **On-Okh** symbols of Cappadocia (right) and the remains of the temple at Göbeklitepe is worth pondering. We see that both are circular -as a symbol of the sun- with an opening to be used as an entrance inside which a + sign or a T shaped pillar represent the shaman leader Okh person (see Chapter 6, **Universal symbols**).

The name of the region is also worth investigating. Cappadocia can be dissected as **Cappad-oc-ia**. Cappa, written as “kapa”, means “close” in Turkish. The Etruscans named their dwellings “capua” and “cabanne” means a small hut, in French. There is an ancient Etruscan city in Italy whose name is Capua. The word standing for head covering in Latin was “cappa” and it changed to “capelli” in Italian, “chapeau” in French and “cap” in English. The same word is found as “kap” (container), “kapi” (door), “kapak” (cover) and “kalpak” (hat) in Turkish. From these correlations we can now elucidate Cappadocia meaning: “**The covered (closed) dwellings of the Oc people**”. This explanation is in good accordance with the underground cities found in the region.

Another interesting region of Anatolia is the settlements of the early Hattians followed by the Hittites. These civilizations flourished in the vicinity of Alacahöyük (see map at the top). The Hatti civilization lasted from 2500 BC to 1700 BC and the Hittites lasted from 1700 BC to 1190 BC. Regarding the Hattian language **Ekrem Akurgal** says:

It has been established that Hattian was a language peculiar to itself, completely different from Indo-European and Semitic languages. (1)

The Hittites were greatly influenced by the Hattians in religion, mythology, ceremonies and customs. Of Hattian origin was the Sun Goddess of the Hittites. Many artifacts representing the sun have been found in the region. There are cult symbols belonging to the Hattians that strongly support their Asiatic origin. The bronze stag seen below is about half a meter high and was found in Alacahöyük. It is presently exhibited at the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. The Hattian stag has been dated to be minimum 4,000 years old. The

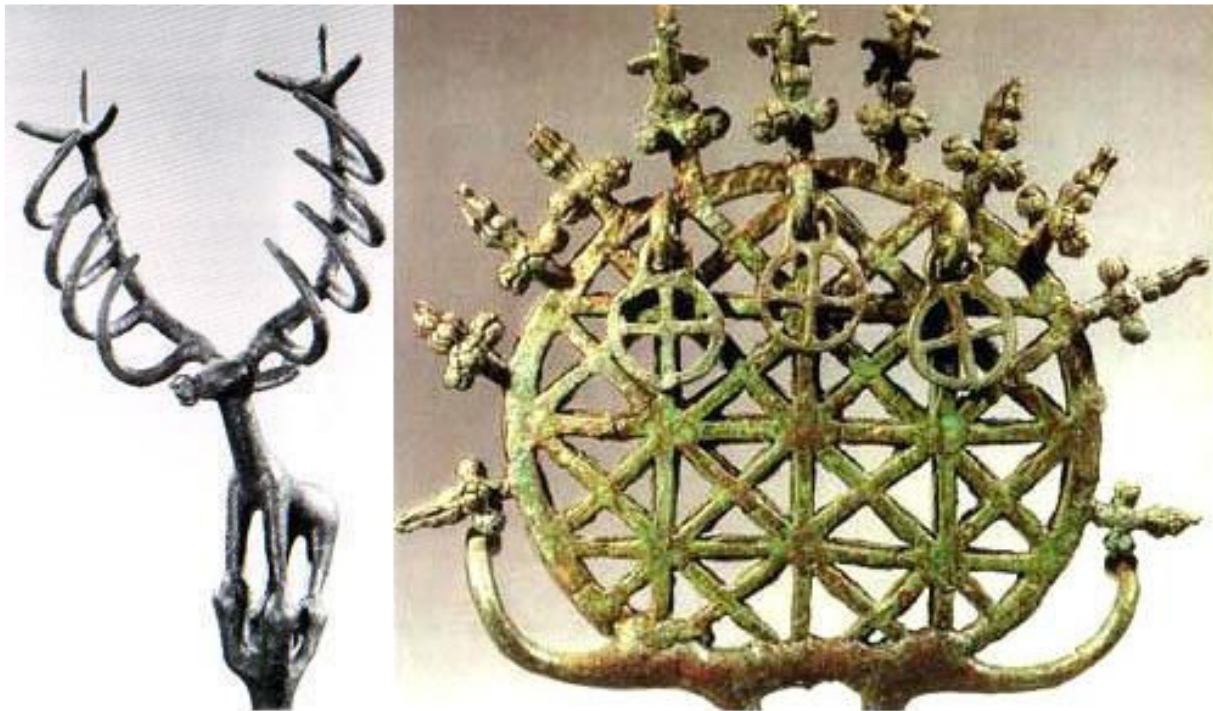
overgrown long horns of the stag are another indication of their Asiatic origin (see Chapter 4, **The Asiatic Scythians**).

Next to the stag we see a religious standard of the Hattians, again dated from 2100-2000 BC (2). Regarding this artifact E. Akurgal gives the following explanation:

The circles here and in many other examples symbolize the heavens. The pair of horns symbolizes those of “the ox who carries the world upon his horns”.

In fact, the horns are symbols of the Okh person and the circle represents the sun. Three Onkh symbols can clearly be seen hanging on the cult standard. The striking similarity between **Okh** and **Ox** –being no other than Ochs- cannot be pure coincidence. The corresponding word in Turkish for ox is: Oekuez, where the O, k and z are relics still remaining from the root word **Okhs**. We find **Ukhsa** in Sanskrit and **Ohso** in Old High German, both words meaning **Ox**. The origin of all these words is most probably the Proto-language of Asia.

There is also a river in central Asia originating from the Pamir Mountains and ending at the Aral Lake, whose ancient name was Oxus. Its present name is Amu Derya. With the interchange of –us to “su” we obtain a meaningful Turkish word in the form of Ok-su, which means “the Ok waterway”. There are similar named rivers in Turkey, Aksu and Göksu being two such examples.



From these cultural and linguistic relations we can deduce that the Oc tribes coming from Central Asia were the early settlers of Anatolia.

References

- (1) The Hattian and Hittite Civilizations, ISBN 075-17-2756-1, page 5, 2001, Ankara.
- (2) İdem, page20 and 21.